



State of Tennessee
Department of Finance and Administration
Bureau of TennCare
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Nashville, TN 37247-0492

Important TennCare Pharmacy News

On **October 15, 2003**, TennCare will begin implementation of first phase of the TennCare Preferred Drug List (PDL) and the modifications to the Revised *Grier* Consent Decree that were recently approved by the federal court.

Drugs listed on the TennCare PDL do not require prior authorization, while non-preferred drugs within those therapeutic categories will require prior authorization. PDL compliance by prescribers is essential to maximizing the cost-containment efforts of the TennCare program while assuring quality care.

In the event a TennCare enrollee presents a prescription to their pharmacy that is not on the TennCare PDL *and* has not been approved by the TennCare pharmacy benefits manager (PBM), the pharmacy provider will attempt to contact the prescriber for authorization to change the prescription to a PDL alternative. If the prescriber is unavailable, the pharmacy will dispense an interim **three (3) day supply** of the prescribed medication. The pharmacy will attempt to contact the prescriber again before the three day supply has been consumed by the enrollee. If the pharmacy still cannot reach the prescriber or if the prescriber is unwilling to change the original prescription to a covered PDL alternative, then the pharmacy will dispense the remainder of the original prescription and any authorized refills for as long as the prescription is valid.

Prescribers can view the specific drugs included on Phase I of the TennCare PDL by visiting either of the following websites:

<http://www.state.tn.us/tenncare/pharminfo.html> or <http://www.tenncarepdl.com>

TennCare will update providers on new drugs that are added to this list as the TennCare Pharmacy Advisory Committee continues its work on Phase II and Phase III of the PDL. Attached you will find the Phase I PDL and a prior authorization form.

Thank you for your valuable participation in the TennCare program.